

MHDS COMMISSION
February 18, 2021
9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Zoom – Approved 3/18/2021

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin	Timothy Perkins
Diane Brecht	Cory Turner
Teresa Daubitz	Richard Whitaker
Janee Harvey	Russell Wood
John Parmeter	Lorrie Young

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shari O'Bannon
Maria Sorensen

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Annie Koch	Melissa Boens
Theresa Armstrong	Emily Berry
Annie Uetz	Julie Maas
Tracy Liptak	Avis Tripilas
Jason Vermeer	Todd Noack
Lata D'Mello	Dennis Bush
Todd Lange	Kim Keleher
Emma Hall	Sarah Berndt
Adam Feed	Kathy Johnson
Mae Hingtgen	William Dodds
William Vaughn	Amela Alibasic
Bill Kallestad	Susan Martin
Quinn Wood	Tina Shaw
Robin McKee	Liz Cox
Teresa Bomhoff	Jordan Rico
Christy Christenson	Susan Seehase
Libby Reekers	Brenda Daily
Rob Aiken	Julie Jetter
Lisa Mulford	Flora Schmidt
Sandi Hurtado-Peters	Jessica Crawford
Marissa Eyanson	Meghan Freie
Mary A. Petersen	Melissa Loehr
Randy Renner	Victoria Daniels
Wihden Aise	Laura Larkin
Lori Elam	Felicia Toppert
Cheryl Plank	Tom Eachus
Linn Adams	Linda Kellen

Materials Referenced:

January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in Iowa 1.16.20
CMHC Map 9.24.20

Welcome and Introductions

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and led introductions. Quorum was established with ten members present virtually. John asked Commission members to let the Commission know of any conflicts when voting.

Review and Vote on January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Russell Wood made a motion to approve the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Diane Brecht seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Optimae to be a Community Mental Health Center

Theresa Armstrong provided information regarding Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and the role that the Commission has towards assisting the Department of Human Service (DHS) in approving any CMHC. Theresa referred to the document Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in Iowa 1.16.20, which was from a presentation given to the MHDS Commission in January 2020. The document includes a brief history CMHCs, the requirements for CMHCs in Iowa Code 230A, and the designation process that agencies must follow when applying to be a CMHC. The current map of CMHCs was shared, and it was noted that in addition to listing the current CMHCs, it also lists the waived mental health service providers that were currently serving as CMHCs. Theresa provided a brief overview of the process that DHS goes through when working with agencies interested in being a CMHC prior to bringing the recommendation to the Commission for approval and feedback for consideration. It was noted that this process does not happen often as there are 23 CMHCs in Iowa and almost all counties are covered by a CMHC. Only those counties on the map that are white and covered by a waiver provider, do not have a CMHC designation. These would be the only counties available for providers to apply to be a CMHC. Theresa reviewed a brief history of CMHCs in Iowa and how they were designated, as well as the allowance in Iowa Code 230A that grandfathered in those waived providers serving as CMHCs prior to October 1, 2010. The "moratorium" on new CMHC designations was noted as well as when it was lifted in 2017, which prompted the development of the application process currently used by DHS. There was discussion regarding what opportunities CMHCs receive in Iowa, specifically an enhanced rate from Medicaid, and eligibility for Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) dollars. It was noted that if Optimae was designated by DHS as a CMHC for one or more counties they would receive the Medicaid enhanced rate for the services they provide. However since they are a for-profit organization, per federal guidelines they are not eligible for MHBG dollars.

Laura Larkin introduced herself and reviewed the timeline of events regarding Optimae's interest and application for designation by DHS as a CMHC in the five counties they were currently providing services (Des Moines, Jefferson, Lee, Henry and Van Buren counties), including reaching out to RYANNE WOOD, Regional CEO, Southwest Iowa Link as well as other providers in the counties being considered. The feedback from the Region was positive. There was mixed feedback from providers, specifically those that provide services to Henry and Van Buren. It was determined that since a CMHC was already designated for Henry and Van Buren counties, and there were no exceptional circumstances to justify two CMHCs being designated, those counties were no longer considered in Optimae's application. Laura reviewed the steps taken and information considered by DHS in reviewing Optimae's application, including looking at target population eligibility, ability to serve target populations, and core services provided as required in Iowa Code 230A. DHS also reviewed paperwork to confirm that Optimae was designated the mental health service provider in lieu of a CMHC prior to

October 1, 2010. DHS recommended to the MHDS Commission that Optima be considered for designation as a CMHC for Des Moines, Jefferson and Lee counties.

There was considerable discussion among Commission members, DHS and Optima staff concerning Optima's request to be designated a CMHC. The discussion points included; the enhanced rate from Medicaid provided to CMHCs, the obligation of CMHCs, concerns regarding Optima's for-profit status, community support both positive and negative, outreach to other CMHCs in the surrounding area, why Henry and Van Buren counties were part of the request if they already had a CMHC designated, collaboration with other community providers, the important distinction between a designated waiver provider and a CMHC, Chapter 24 accreditation same as non-profit providers, region's support of the request, services Optima is currently doing in these communities, and the grandfather clause in Iowa Code 230A allowing for-profit organizations to be CMHCs only if they were designated the mental health service provider in lieu of a CMHC prior to October 1, 2010.

John Parmeter opened up the discussion for public comment from individuals from Des Moines, Jefferson or Lee counties. No public comment was given. There was discussion among Commission members regarding tabling the agenda item until next month to allow Des Moines, Jefferson and Lee counties opportunity to provide input as the specific counties were not reflected on the agenda.

John Parmeter entertained a motion to table the approval of Optima to be a Community Mental Health Center until March to allow for additional comment. Diane Brecht motioned to recommend approval and Richard Whitaker seconded the motion. There was further discussion regarding the motion, noting that the counties being affected have not had the opportunity to respond, and the fact that the SEIL Region, which is the region being affected is in support of Optima's request. The motion passed with one nay. This agenda item will be tabled until the March meeting.

Update on Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

John Parmeter reported that Children's State Board met on February 9, 2021. John reviewed the highlights of the meeting.

- Director Garcia's priority this legislative session to obtain additional funding to increase the number of Medicaid staff. The number is small in comparison to other states and staff are spread too thin. This is evident in looking at the evaluation of Medicaid rates. Collection and review of the data requires additional staff.
- Presentation regarding a collaboration between the Area Education Agencies (AEAs) and the MHDS Regions on a website to provide parents, students and the public information about mental health services available including links to access and tips for self-care.
- Presentation on therapeutic classrooms by the Department of Education (DOE). DOE has developed rules based on SF2360.
- Presentation by the Metric Subcommittee and is staffed by the DOE. They have begun collection on one of the metrics adopted by the Children's Board.
- Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Checklist has been developed to be used by regions and providers.
- Presentation by Foundation 2 regarding law enforcement liaison activities. In a trial program they have embedded social workers with law enforcement officers (LEOs) to either travel with LEOs or be available to assist with a mental health situations. Due to open communication and developing trust between law enforcement and Foundation 2, on occasion social workers are sent out alone to handle the call.

- Children's Board discussed the need for more frequent meetings, due to the amount of work that needed to be done, deciding to meet on a bi-monthly versus quarterly basis. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9th.

Discussion and Appointment of a New Representative from MHDS Commission to Children's Behavioral Health System State Board

John Parmeter notified members that they needed to designate a new representative to Children's Behavioral Health System State Board as his last term with the Commission expires after the April meeting. John inquired if there were any members interested in serving. Richard Whitaker notified the Commission that he would be interested in serving as the representative.

Russell Wood motioned to designate Richard Whitaker as MHDS Commission Representative to the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board. Betsy Akin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Wendy DePhillips will send the necessary documents to the Children's Board to let them know of the appointment, and will coordinate to ensure Richard receives necessary materials for the March 9th meeting.

MHDS Update

MHDS Regions

Theresa provided an update regarding changes for County Social Services (CSS) Region that will be effective July 1, 2021. Cerro Gordo, Webster, Wright counties have been accepted by the Central Iowa Community Services (CICS) Region. Pocahontas and Humboldt counties have been accepted by the Rolling Hills Region. Emmett County is in agreement and has signed their 28E Agreement for the Sioux Rivers Region. Hancock County has made changes and have voted to apply to the CICS Region.

DHS Dashboard

The DHS Dashboard was launched in the most recent DHS newsletter. The dashboard can be found at https://dhs.iowa.gov/dashboard_welcome. Theresa indicated that the dashboard would be updated as data was available. The tabs at the bottom of the page indicate different areas of DHS and you are able to click on information within the dashboard to get further in-depth information and reports. MHDS-Community doesn't have a tab yet, but one will be developed. The Regional Dashboards are available online, but not quite in this format.

Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

SAMHSA has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) expansion grants. Theresa indicated that Iowa has several providers that are looking at applying for the CCBHC grant and that SAMHSA will often go back and look at previous requests for applications that were not funded and fund them. Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa and Heartland are two new CCBHCs in Iowa that were recently notified that they have received funding. The Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) will receive \$5.6 million for FFY21 with a 10% set aside for First Episode Psychosis (FEP) and a new requirement for a 5% set-aside for crisis support services. DHS already meets the 5% set-aside by providing dollars to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for Your Life Iowa, the mental health crisis line in the state.

National Crisis Line - 988

988 will begin July 2022 and will be the phone number for the national suicide line. IDPH and DHS wrote for a SAMHSA planning grant and were awarded the grant. Technical assistance has started with

the national Lifeline as well as work with CommUnity and Foundation 2 as they are the providers who currently answer national hotline calls in Iowa.

Break

The Commission left for break at 11:25 a.m. and returned from break at 11:53 a.m.

Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment

Amela Alibasic introduced herself and provided a high level overview of Medicaid eligibility using the PowerPoint presentation, Medicaid Eligibility 101.

Lata D'Mello inquired if DHS has finalized the process for Compact of Free Association (COFA) members to receive Medicaid, as she is getting various responses from different service providers. Amela provided the MHDS Commission with some background on a new policy that allows COFA members to qualify for full Medicaid. COFA migrants include the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Amela noted that the State of Iowa has citizens from these countries, and that the policy has been implemented. As long as the citizens meet other eligibility requirements regarding income and assets they will qualify to receive Medicaid. There was discussion regarding translated documents for COFA citizens and that Medicaid will be producing documents in all three languages.

Wihden Aise questioned whether COFA citizens who have purchased an insurance policy in the Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM), who would now qualify for Medicaid under the new policy, should keep the insurance they purchased or cancel it and apply for Medicaid. Amela recommended that the individuals apply for Medicaid, and once they are approved they can call the marketplace and terminate their coverage based on that eligibility. Individuals cannot receive assistance for the FFM if they are eligible for Medicaid. Wihden questioned if there was state funding available to educate the COFA community members, as local providers are stretched thin. Amela indicated that Medicaid could assist with outreach and that the Department of Human Rights might be able to provide some assistance, but couldn't speak to state funding at this time.

Betsy Akin inquired what the timeline would be to process an application for an individual moving back to the state. Amela indicated that without specifics it would be difficult to pinpoint the timeframe. The 10-15 day timeline was an average, and it could be longer depending on what services were needed.

Planning for Future Meetings

John Parmeter asked if there were any items that members would like included on the agenda for future meetings. Russell Wood suggested adding a meeting on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers, specifically the Brain Injury (BI), Intellectual Disability (ID) and Habilitation waivers. Russell also indicated that the MHDS Regions have services being implemented by July 1, 2021 and MHDS CEOs are doing mapping on coverage areas and potential gaps of those services. Russell suggested a meeting in March or April to discuss regional updates on the implementation of the complex needs and children's services. Tim Perkins would like an update on how the state is handling the COVID vaccine for individuals with disabilities who are homebound or have transportation issues.

John indicated that the Commission holds its election of Chair and Vice-Chair at the April meeting. The Commission needs to designate a Nominations subcommittee to contact members for nominations of candidates for those elected positions. Following discussion it was decided that John Parmeter, Betsy Akin and Richard Whitaker would make up the Nominations subcommittee, and if individuals were

interested in serving in one of these positions to let John know, otherwise the Nominations subcommittee will be reaching out to members.

Public Comment

Todd Lange thanked Commission members and their support and work regarding peer support. Todd indicated that in the East Central Region, the Abbe Center warm line has expanded their hours and are almost up to 24 hours, which is what they are staffing up to. The call volumes have increased dramatically over the years. Todd also updated the Commission regarding new peer support contracts in the Eastern Iowa Region.

Quinn Wood inquired about where individuals can find information regarding the MHDS Regions and AEA website. The website <https://iowaeeamentalhealth.org> was provided.

Todd Noack updated the Commission on the 24/7 support line that LifeConnections is doing, and that he had a conversation with legislators regarding peer support, who indicated that they were going to reach out to DHS to have a conversation with DHS, legislators and peer-run organizations.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.